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Sustainable development: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

The present report provides an overview of the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/211. It also includes a section on international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon in accordance with the request made by the Assembly in its resolution 67/208 (see annex). For the fourth consecutive year, economic losses from disasters have exceeded $100 billion, highlighting the urgency to anticipate medium- and long-term risk scenarios and to identify concrete measures to minimize the creation of future risk, reduce existing levels of risk and strengthen social, environmental and economic resilience.

An important focus over the past year has been the preparations for the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015. The multi-stakeholder consultation processes culminated with the last round of six multi-stakeholder regional platforms that were held in Africa, the Americas, Asia, the Pacific, Central Asia and Europe. The Open-ended Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee was established and held its first session in Geneva on 14 and 15 July 2014. The Committee reviewed the procedural and organizational aspects of the Conference preparations and discussed elements of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

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** The submission of the present report was delayed owing to technical reasons.

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I. Overview of current and developing disaster risks

1. For the fourth consecutive year, economic losses from disasters have exceeded $100 billion, underscoring the need to minimize the creation of future risk, reduce existing levels of risk and strengthen social, environmental and economic resilience. Driven by increases in hazard exposure, as private and public investments continue to concentrate in exposed areas, this upward trend in disaster risk levels is a threat to communities across the world.

2. Risk levels are being further exacerbated by extremes in weather and climate. The seemingly endless record-breaking events, including the strongest tropical storm to ever make landfall, extreme heat and intense cold, the absence of rain and snow in some areas and excessive rainfall in others, will continue to have far-reaching economic and social repercussions over the medium and long terms, particularly as the global economy continues to integrate markets and suppliers.

3. Throughout the reporting period,[1] over 16,300 people died and 113 million people were affected by some 358 internationally reported disasters. The deadliest single disaster was Typhoon Haiyan, which devastated parts of the islands of Leyte, Samar and Cebu, among others, in the Philippines, and resulted in 7,354 deaths or missing people.[2] Storms represented the largest (49 per cent), and floods the second largest (35 per cent), share of global economic losses associated with natural hazards over the reporting period, continuing a long-standing trend. In fact, storms and floods have caused 55 per cent of lives lost and 86 per cent of economic losses between 1970 and 2012.[3] In the past year, no continent was spared. Europe experienced a series of costly and highly destructive floods, as did parts of North and South America, Australia and Southern Africa. While deaths associated with these events were relatively low, millions of people were affected through private and public property and asset losses.

4. Apart from extreme and sudden events, slow onset disasters and climate change also continue to impact the global economy. The potential repercussions of drought on food prices and supply rose to prominence with the declaration by California, in the United States of America, of the worst drought in its recorded history. California, which produces almost half of all fruit, nuts and vegetables grown in the United States and is a major global exporter, is representative of many other high-volume agricultural producers where potential climate and natural hazards could impact on global and national supply and pricing.

5. Further, a confluence of risk drivers are compounding losses and need to be both better understood and better addressed. Development that fails to assess risk, environmental degradation, climate change, poverty and inequality, weak governance mechanisms and rapid urbanization in highly exposed areas are fuelling losses and exacerbating both the vulnerability and exposure of societies to disaster losses. In fact, the devastating impact of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines illustrated the need to address these underlying drivers of risk, together with strengthening disaster preparedness and response capacity.

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[1] The present report covers the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014.

[2] EM-DAT: the OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database.

[3] World Meteorological Organization (WMO), *Atlas of Mortality and Economic Losses from Weather, Climate and Water Extremes 1970-2012* (2014).

6. Urbanization in hazard-prone areas demands risk assessment and planning with foresight. With concentrated urban populations facing multiple hazards, and in particular flooding, the need to strengthen the resilience of cities is fundamental. A recent risk analysis of 616 major metropolitan areas,[4] comprising 1.7 billion people, or nearly 25 per cent of the world's population, and approximately half of global gross domestic product (GDP), found that flood risk threatens more people than any other natural hazard. River flooding poses a threat to over 379 million urban residents, with earthquake and strong winds potentially affecting 283 million and 157 million people, respectively. Given that 60 per cent of the area expected to be urban in 2030 remains to be built, the opportunity to proactively shape and plan the cities of tomorrow must be seized.

7. Investments in early warning and disaster preparedness have yielded positive and encouraging results and need to be further strengthened. As illustrated in Odisha and Andra Pradesh, India, where over a million people were evacuated in advance of Cyclone Phailin, the commitment of States and communities to preparedness saves lives. The 8.2-magnitude earthquake off the coast of Chile in April 2014, and the subsequent aftershocks, also highlighted the benefits of investing in preparedness and risk mitigation associated with seismic hazards. The enforcement of building codes is credited with the very low numbers of deaths, as buildings and infrastructure held, while the evacuation of over 900,000 people from the coast, following a tsunami warning, illustrates the benefits of investing in public awareness and early warning.

8. Even so, long-term impacts and costs of lost opportunities remain and continue to impact the economic growth of cities and countries. To address these, risks need to be understood and proactively managed at the community level. An evidence-based and integrated approach by both the public and private sectors needs to be institutionalized, so that investments are made more resilient.

9. The intersection of natural and technological hazards is now receiving increasing attention. Countries' exposure to technological disasters triggered by natural hazards entailing complex and cascading threats is a growing concern. The earthquake and tsunami that occurred in Japan in March 2011, which damaged the Fukushima nuclear power plant, brought to the fore the complex interrelationship of natural hazards and technological disasters. A recent global report has identified 23 power plant sites with 74 reactors currently at risk from tsunamis.[5] Similarly, during the 2014 South-East Europe floods, the unforeseen phenomenon of landmines shifting or resurfacing compounded the already disastrous aftermath of the floods. Almost 120,000 mines in a contained area of 13,000 square feet of well-marked fields were detached from warning signs once indicating their locations.

10. Methodologies and tools for assessing the "na-tech" risk, as the combined risk posed by the natural and technological is sometimes referred to, are limited and need to be invested in. Several factors need to be taken into consideration in establishing integrated strategies for reducing the risk of potential nuclear, technological, biological, chemical or radiological events, given the wide-ranging implications they can have on health, agriculture, the wider environment and the safety of people and communities in general. These integrated strategies and plans

[4] Swiss Re, "Mind the risk: a global ranking of cities under threat from natural disasters" (2013).

[5] Joaquin Rodriguez-Vidal, Jose M. Rodriguez-Llanes and Debarati Guha-Sapir, "Civil nuclear power at risk of tsunamis", *Natural Hazards*, vol. 63, No. 2, pp. 1273-1278 (September 2012).

also need to focus on the added complexities of recovery and reconstruction after a complex na-tech disaster event.

11. The fifth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, entitled *Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability*, has provided yet another wake-up call for the international community. While no single disaster event can be attributed to climate change, there is increased evidence that climate change is affecting many natural and human systems and poses significant risks to human health, ecosystems, infrastructure and agricultural production. The report's predictions are sobering, given the immense difficulty Governments and communities face in managing existing levels of disaster risk.

12. The overall losses from disasters are mounting at an alarming rate and are impacting global efforts to eradicate poverty and develop sustainably. However, the recognition that the reduction of disaster risks contributes to sustainable development can lead the way to intensify action. I therefore welcome the attention given to disaster risk, and the need to strengthen resilience, across the post-2015 development agenda. This is a manifestation of the understanding of how destructive disasters are to people, economies and the stability of States and communities.

II. Building a risk-sensitive post-2015 agenda: challenges and opportunities

13. As stated in previous reports on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the biennial global assessment reports and the self-assessments by countries and cities worldwide, there has been considerable progress made in all regions across the five priorities for action of the Hyogo Framework for Action. Great strides have been made in strengthening institutional and legislative arrangements; early warning systems and disaster preparedness; and public awareness and education. However, the least progressed priority area — four — concerns the underlying risk factors that drive the potential for losses.

14. Evidence indicates that exposure of people and assets in both higher- and lower-income countries has increased faster than vulnerability has decreased, thus generating new risks and a steady increase in socioeconomic losses. Many Governments are now faced with increasing levels of contingent liability and sovereign risk. In particular, this poses challenges to countries with small and vulnerable economies and constrained fiscal spaces, such as small island developing States, least developed countries and landlocked developing countries.

15. The year 2015 marks an important opportunity to change the course of these trends. The outcomes of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction will have a critical influence on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the climate change agreement, and vice versa. Building coherence and mutual reinforcement among these policy frameworks will be of the utmost importance both in terms of substantive alignment among the instruments as well as well-coordinated implementation and monitoring mechanisms.

16. It is now widely recognized that this coherence can be established on multiple levels. On substantive alignment, it must be ensured that policy incentives embedded within the three post-2015 instruments are not contradictory. Further,

common terminology could directly support coherence and mutual reinforcement. Including explicit reference for coherent implementation in each framework's visionary chapeau would go one step further in incentivizing integrated implementation.

17. Unless disaster risks are effectively managed, increasing disaster losses and impacts will undermine development achievements across all the Sustainable Development Goals. At the same time, whether or not the Goals facilitate risk-sensitive investment by the public and private sectors will directly influence the underlying risk drivers and hence future levels of risk and resilience. In practice, the public policies adopted to achieve both frameworks will also need to be mutually supportive. In addition, common measurement metrics will streamline implementation and allow measurement of how progress made in one framework contributes to the other.

18. As one concrete step to identifying suitable disaster risk reduction targets and indicators that can work across frameworks, the United Nations Development Programme and the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction are piloting illustrative targets and indicators in Armenia, Japan and Mozambique. Although the exercise is at an initial stage, it is already providing important insights into how targets and indicators can play a role in ensuring that the Sustainable Development Goals and the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction are effectively aligned, a crucial part of ensuring the reduction of disaster risk through sustainable development.

19. The climate change agenda is also intrinsically linked to the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction given that climate change is an underlying risk driver that is increasingly and critically important. The policy foundations for coherence and mutual reinforcement are well established in various decisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which are explicit in regard to the importance of disaster risk reduction and the Hyogo Framework for Action. The decisions that established the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action also specifically addressed enhanced action on adaptation based on the Cancun Adaptation Framework, which called for "enhancing climate change-related disaster risk reduction strategies, taking into consideration the Hyogo Framework for Action, where appropriate".

20. Mobilizing political will for an ambitious global legal climate agreement by 2015 and catalysing ambitious action on the ground to reduce emissions and strengthen resilience have been priorities during the reporting period. The United Nations system, together with the private sector and civil society, have worked steadily to advance targeted commitments to resilience, adaptation and disaster risk reduction and to strengthen partnerships for implementation. Far-reaching efforts were undertaken in the lead-up to the 2014 Climate Summit to accelerate disaster risk reduction actions in cities, to deliver climate information services, to factor risk into financial accounting systems and decision-making processes and to build support for financing risk reduction and adaption through regional risk transfer mechanisms and other means — particularly for the Pacific region and small island developing States.

21. Coherence and mutual reinforcement in the three landmark instruments set for 2015 are crucial for more resilient nations and communities. Together, the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, a post-2015 development agenda, including

sustainable development goals, and the post-2015 climate change agreement can be expected to provide powerful guidance to building the resilience of current and future generations.

III. Towards a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction

Review of 10 years of implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action

22. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/211, the 10-year review of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action was completed in 2014. The report, which encapsulates the findings of the components of the review process, will inform delegates at the intergovernmental preparatory process for the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and the development of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

23. The review includes the ongoing biennial self-assessment of progress in implementing the Hyogo Framework being undertaken by countries and intergovernmental organizations since 2007.[6] It also draws on findings of the midterm review process of the Hyogo Framework for Action;[7] the outcomes and priorities for disaster risk reduction of regional platforms and ministerial meetings;[8] the Chair's summaries and statements of the first, second, third and fourth sessions of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction;[9] the findings of local governments' assessments of progress in building resilience to disaster;[10] the global assessment reports on disaster risk reduction;[11] the thematic review of the Hyogo Framework for Action;[12] and the consultations with Governments and non-governmental organizations, regional intergovernmental organizations, United Nations and international organizations and groups (including, inter alia, communities, businesses and industry) during the period from March 2012 to May 2014.

24. Findings of the progress reports show that the Hyogo Framework continues to be an influential guide for Governments and other stakeholders seeking to more effectively manage disaster risk. Greater emphasis is being placed by nations and communities on understanding and addressing risk as part of strengthening resilience.

25. With hazard exposure increasing in many regions, the review indicates that a focus on reducing the existing stock of risk, preventing the generation of new risk and strengthening all-of-society resilience, underpinned by increased accountability and greater emphasis on local-level efforts, will be essential for the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. In order to address risk effectively — both the existing risk as well as avoiding the creation of new risks — all State institutions,

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[6] Available from www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/progress/reports.

[7] Available from www.preventionweb.net/files/18197_midterm.pdf.

[8] Available from www.unisdr.org/files/34665_regionalcompendiumreportassembled.pdf.

[9] Available from www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/GP/?pid:24&pil:1.

[10] Available from www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/hfa-monitoring/local/?pid:73&pih:2.

[11] Available from www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar.

[12] Available from www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/networks/private/hfa-thematic-review.

including executive and legislative arms, need to be actively involved at the central and local levels.

26. The Hyogo Framework for Action has inspired the identification and systematization of legal principles and rules informing disaster risk management, as exemplified by the adoption by the International Law Commission, on first reading, of a set of draft articles on the "Protection of persons in the event of disasters".

Consultations on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction

27. For almost two years, Governments, non-governmental organizations, regional intergovernmental organizations, United Nations and international organizations and groups (including, inter alia, communities, businesses and industry) have engaged in consultations to reflect on the progress and lessons of nearly a decade of Hyogo Framework for Action implementation and to identify gaps to be addressed and opportunities to be harnessed in a post-215 framework for disaster risk reduction. As outlined in the compilation report on consultations on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, a shared vision is emerging of a safer and more resilient world.

28. Consultations for the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction have indicated that future work on disaster risk reduction must build on the successes of the Hyogo Framework for Action. In addition, it has been widely recognized that the new framework should fill the existing gaps, such as addressing the underlying factors; incentivizing risk prevention by integrating disaster risk into public policies; ensuring coherent implementation across institutional boundaries; and enabling public-private sector partnerships.

29. The need for the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction to focus on local governments and actors as primary implementers has been clearly articulated, as has a desire to see the new framework reflect the realities of local decision makers and citizens. The demarcation of responsibilities at the central, provisional, district or municipal levels and strengthening the process of decentralization of responsibilities and resources to local governments also featured prominently in discussions. Throughout the consultations, many found common ground around the need to strengthen existing arrangements to support communities' participation, improve national and local risk governance and increase capacity to translate legal and policy frameworks into effective risk reduction actions. Moreover, many voiced the need for strong measures to build regional cooperation on interconnected issues that are essential for sustainable development, such as food and energy security, gender equality, health, environment and climate risk.

30. Across the consultations, there was an unequivocal call for greater integration and mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction — especially with climate and development in key sectors such as agriculture, health and food security and nutrition. Focusing on the reduction of exposure of people and assets, with an emphasis on preventing disaster risk and building resilience, is seen as an important approach. There was also a realization that as a consequence of demographic change, urbanization and the impacts of climate change, urban planning and infrastructure development will need to be rethought. A renewed emphasis on resilient recovery as an imperative to sustainable development has evolved through the past decade of the

Hyogo Framework for Action. The Second World Reconstruction Conference will be held in Washington D.C. from 11 to 13 September 2014 to discuss more systematic approaches to recovery and reconstruction, to be presented for consideration in the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

Periodic reviews of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction

31. In its resolution 68/211, the General Assembly noted the importance of periodic reviews of the Hyogo Framework for Action and requested the formulation of proposals for effective periodic review of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. The implementation of the Hyogo Framework has highlighted opportunities and gaps vis-à-vis periodic reviews. In particular, the first peer reviews conducted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Finland have highlighted the value of voluntary and self-initiated peer reviews among countries and cities as a very useful mechanism to support national and local efforts, reviews of progress, mutual learning, exchange of best practices, and identification of specific areas for future technical cooperation and exchange of information. Moreover, whereas preceding instruments, such as the International Framework of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, were within the purview of the Economic and Social Council, the Hyogo Framework did not explicitly provide for review by the relevant United Nations governance bodies, thus de facto limiting opportunities for Member States to take stock of progress in a comprehensive manner through the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on mutually-reinforcing questions such as disaster risk management and sustainable development. Therefore, it is suggested that Member States consider the option of voluntary and self-initiated peer reviews to support countries' implementation of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, and to periodically review the implementation of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction through the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly and, as appropriate, through the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

Preparations for the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

32. The General Assembly decided that the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction will be held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015, and agreed that it will be held at the highest possible level and will include a high-level segment. Furthermore, the Assembly decided that the Conference will result in a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented outcome document and will have the following objectives: (a) to complete the assessment and review of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action; (b) to consider the experience gained through the regional and national strategies/institutions and plans for disaster risk reduction and their recommendations as well as relevant regional agreements under the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action; (c) to adopt a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction; (d) to identify modalities of cooperation based on commitments to implement a post-2015 framework for

disaster risk reduction; and (e) to determine modalities for periodic review of the implementation of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

33. At its sixty-eighth session, the General Assembly stressed the importance of regional coordination in the framework of the preparatory process in order to promote broad participation in the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and in this context, looked forward to the regional platforms and ministerial meetings scheduled for 2014. During the reporting period, six multi-stakeholder regional platforms were held in the Americas, Asia, the Pacific, Central Asia, Africa and Europe.[13] As important gatherings that catalyse regional coordination on disaster risk reduction, they have provided significant substantive contributions to the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and created a strong foundation for broad participation in the World Conference. Some common messages emerging from the deliberations at the regional platforms include a strong emphasis on local resilience; the importance of providing user-friendly risk information to communities; the need to ensure public investments are risk-sensitive; and the need to enable vibrant public-private sector partnerships.

34. An Open-ended Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee was established to review and guide the organizational and substantive preparations for the Conference, and a bureau with equitable geographical representation was elected.[14] At its first session, held in Geneva on 14 and 15 July 2014, the Committee reviewed the procedural and organizational aspects of the Conference preparations, and discussed the substantive issues. The session welcomed over 900 participants and generated a rich discussion by States, observers, civil society and other major group representatives on priorities for the post-2015 framework. The Committee mandated the co-chairs of the bureau to carry out open-ended informal consultative meetings in September and October 2014, on the basis of an agreed timeline. Based on such consultative meetings, the co-chairs, by mid-October, will prepare a "zero draft" for the second session of the Preparatory Committee, scheduled to be held in Geneva on 17 and 18 November 2014. A third session, if needed, will be held immediately prior to the World Conference.

35. During the substantive discussions, many speakers referred to the importance of the multi-stakeholder consultations held over the past two years, including global and regional platforms, meetings of intergovernmental organizations, national dialogues, stakeholder forums and social networks. Throughout the meeting, States and other stakeholders expressed their support for the following: (a) universal agreement that the Hyogo Framework had been instrumental in advancing disaster risk reduction at the global, regional and national levels; (b) the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction needs to complement and build on the Hyogo Framework; (c) strongly strengthen the focus on preventing the creation of new risk and continue steady action to reduce existing risk; (d) focus on reducing vulnerability and exposure; (e) disaster risk reduction is a shared responsibility and therefore it is important to engage all of society and promote equality, inclusion and non-discriminatory participation, which is a responsibility of all stakeholders;

[13] The Second Arab Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction will be held from 14 to 16 September 2014 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

[14] The bureau is composed of two representatives of each region, namely: Bangladesh, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, Jamaica, Russian Federation, South Sudan, Switzerland, Thailand (members); and Japan (ex officio member).

(f) develop more effective accountability mechanisms in both public and private sectors for managing risk; (g) contribute to create synergies across the three key post-2015 frameworks; (h) strengthen national governance and coordination to manage disaster risk; (i) engage all State institutions and empower local communities and authorities in managing disaster risk and contributing to the definition of national policies and plans; (j) clearly define roles and responsibilities across public and private sector actors; (k) strengthen regional cooperation and address transboundary risk; (l) monitor progress more carefully in order to allow for necessary corrective actions; and (m) the role of regional platforms as an essential pillar of the international architecture of disaster risk reduction. In addition, a number of calls were made for specific action by the Strategy secretariat and the United Nations system, i.e., in the areas of provision of risk information, support for the implementation and periodic reviews in the context of the new framework.

36. The consultations on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, including the outcomes of the regional platforms for disaster risk reduction and the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, acknowledged the role of the United Nations system entities in supporting the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and the role of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction in expanding the political space for disaster risk management. Participants at the consultations also acknowledged the Strategy secretariat's technical services and support in generating evidence, advancing knowledge and understanding of disaster risk and evidence-based policy development, mobilizing stakeholders such as parliamentarians, mayors and the private sector, and supporting national and regional platforms and the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as strengthening the coordination of the United Nations system by leading the development and coordinating the implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience. There is an expectation that the Strategy secretariat will strengthen its services to support the implementation, monitoring, reporting on and review of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

37. In line with resolution 68/211, a conference unit has been established within the Strategy secretariat to coordinate the Conference preparations. Close cooperation has been developed with the Government of Japan and the city of Sendai. The Government of Japan will host the World Conference and fund a large proportion of the costs. Other donors are also contributing to the preparatory process and the event itself. Additional funds are being sought to cover the travel costs of delegations from developing countries attending the conference and the second session of the Preparatory Committee. Updated information on the preparations for the Conference is available from www.wcdrr.org.

IV. Coordination and guidance on disaster risk reduction

38. Under the leadership of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, the coordination and guidance on disaster risk reduction has been drastically strengthened over the past years, in particular, at the global and regional levels. Disaster risk reduction advocacy has been instrumental in mobilizing key actors at the local level, through the resilient cities campaign, youth

initiatives and the activities related to the International Day for Disaster Reduction. This section summarizes the main achievements during the reporting period.

A. Supporting global action on disaster risk reduction

39. In response to General Assembly resolution 68/211, welcoming the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience as an important contribution to United Nations operational development work, the following progress has been made over the past 12 months. As at May 2014, 12 United Nations organizations had prioritized disaster risk reduction within their 2014-2017 strategic workplans and were including disaster risk reduction in their respective results-based monitoring frameworks.[15] This represents a 70 per cent increase in comparison with the previous work planning cycle. In addition, the World Bank Group has committed to systematically integrate disaster and climate risk into all new International Development Association country partnership frameworks and operations, and to scale up support in 25 additional countries over the next three years.

40. At the national level, United Nations country teams around the world have integrated disaster risk and climate change into their assessment of development needs and gaps and, as a result, 50 United Nations development assistance frameworks prioritize disaster and climate risk reduction. In parallel, 85 per cent of the World Bank Group active country assistance or partnership strategies incorporated disaster and climate risk analysis, up from 70 per cent in 2011-2012 and from 44 per cent in the mid-2000s. The Strategy secretariat, through the Senior Management Group on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience of the High-level Committee on Programmes is working with the United Nations Development Group to anchor the commitments made in the Plan of Action in the guidance, capacity-building and monitoring of United Nations development work in countries.

41. As a result, the United Nations system, as part of its ongoing review of its operational development work, which is reflected in its quadrennial comprehensive policy review, now measures how effectively disaster and climate risk are addressed within United Nations development assistance frameworks. Resident coordinators, as part of their recently revised generic job descriptions, are now accountable for coordination on disaster risk reduction in countries, supporting the national roll-out of the Plan of Action and regularly reporting on progress.

42. In support of resident coordinators and United Nations country teams, two inter-agency task teams have developed modalities to provide resources to resident coordinator offices and United Nations country teams in their work on disaster risk reduction and a monitoring framework and set of indicators to measure progress by the United Nations system against the Plan of Action. Further, in cooperation with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Team on Preparedness and Resilience, a common framework for engaging the international system to strengthen

[15] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Office for Project Services, World Food Programme (WFP), WMO, World Health Organization, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Bank Group.

preparedness at the national and local levels has been agreed by the Standing Committee, the United Nations Development Group and the Strategy secretariat.

Funding of the Strategy secretariat

43. For the biennium 2014-2015, the Strategy secretariat set a resource target of $70 million to fulfil its work. In the 2012-2013 biennium, income totalled $62.2 million, a 15 per cent increase over the previous biennium and a 96 per cent achievement of the 2012-2013 biennial target of $64.9 million. Contributions were received from a total of 34 donors, including from the private sector. These results are indicative of increased donor confidence in the strategic direction and results achieved by the secretariat. The regular budget of the United Nations provides support for one senior position (at the D-1 level) in the Strategy secretariat.

44. The Strategy secretariat is working to secure increases in funding from donors, where possible on a multi-year basis. This is important to ensure uninterrupted programme delivery given the expectations and demands placed on the Strategy secretariat. The Strategy secretariat signed nine multi-year agreements during the 2012-2013 biennium.

45. Given the increasing impact of disasters worldwide and the rapidly growing commitment and priority given by Governments and communities to disaster risk management, which have resulted in increased demands and expectations on the Strategy secretariat's services and support, including with respect to global advocacy, technical advice, the convening of regional and global meetings, the building and servicing of partnerships, the strengthening of the knowledge base on disaster risk trends and the provision of support to resource mobilization for disaster risk reduction, the financial base of the Strategy secretariat and its capacity to serve and support the implementation of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction need to be strengthened and made more predictable in order to fund the secretariat's core and recurrent activities. I look forward to Member States' consideration of this matter and to support for the voluntary funding of the Strategy secretariat.

B. Advocating for action on disaster risk reduction

Investing in disaster risk reduction and building resilience

46. The Strategy secretariat's risk knowledge work has strongly highlighted that the way future investment decisions are made in all sectors will play a decisive role for risk reduction, building resilience and sustainability of future development.

47. Building on the achievements made by the Group of 20 (G20) during the presidency of Mexico,[16] the Strategy secretariat has continued to collaborate with key partners in supporting effective disaster risk management worldwide. At their meetings on 19 and 20 September 2013, finance ministers of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) welcomed the survey report entitled "Disaster risk

[16] Government of Mexico/World Bank, special joint G20 publication entitled *Improving the Assessment of Disaster Risks to Strengthen Financial Resilience*; and G20/OECD methodological framework on disaster risk assessment and risk financing as a response to a mandate from G20 leaders, finance ministers and central bank governors.

financing in APEC economies: practices and challenges" [17] prepared by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank Group and the Strategy secretariat. The report demonstrates that despite significant implementation challenges, improving financial resilience against disasters is an issue that countries in the APEC region are addressing. It also identifies key priorities for future work. Building on this experience from countries and international partners, the World Bank Group is currently finalizing a first operational framework to help countries to implement comprehensive financial protection strategies.

48. The collaboration between the Strategy secretariat and OECD during the reporting period was also fruitful. At its ministerial council meeting held on 7 May 2014, OECD adopted a recommendation on the governance of critical risks. [18] In March 2014, a proposal to establish a policy marker for disaster risk management in the OECD Development Assistance Committee creditor reporting system was presented to the OECD Working Party on Statistics. The proposal makes a case for instituting a policy marker in the OECD creditor reporting system for tracking disaster risk management mainstreaming in development assistance and explains how such a marker could enhance development planning and effectiveness, contributing to resilient growth.

World disaster reduction campaign on Making Cities Resilient: "My city is getting ready"

49. Projections indicate that more than 70 per cent of the global population will reside in cities by 2050; cities are and will continue to be a prime arena for resilience-building. It is estimated that 60 per cent of what will be urban by 2030 has yet to be built, with an estimated $97.7 trillion to be spent on construction activities in the coming decade. [19]

50. Taking this into account, the world disaster reduction campaign on Making Cities Resilient: "My city is getting ready", launched in 2010, has continued to mobilize local governments to know their risks, invest wiser, build safer and learn through self-assessments. The campaign has strengthened local-level leadership and political will for disaster risk reduction, responding to a local demand for support and guidance on how to implement concrete disaster risk reduction actions. It has improved capacity and understanding of local-level disaster risk reduction central issues.

51. The campaign currently has 1,981 local government signatories across 106 countries that have pledged to implement the campaign's "Ten essentials". The campaign's 35 dedicated champions and advocates, 42 role model cities and 40 partners continue to advocate for increased action and promote good practices in a wide range of areas, including flood management, early warning, earthquake reconstruction and legislation implementation at the local level. Through university programmes, the campaign is raising awareness of the Hyogo Framework for Action

[17] Available from www.oecd.org/daf/fin/insurance/disasterriskfinancinginapececonomies.htm.

[18] Available from www.oecd.org/governance/risk/recommendation-on-governance-of-critical-risks.htm.

[19] United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, *From Shared Risk to Shared Value: The Business Case Disaster Risk Reduction. Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction* (Geneva, 2013).

to a new generation of well-prepared and informed citizens who will become the political, technical and social leaders of the future. The Strategy secretariat has taken steps, through its Incheon-based Global Education and Training Institute, to develop and implement capacity-building modules to help city governments to implement the components of the campaign, and to mainstream disaster risk reduction into development investment.

52. In an effort to promote partnership and, ultimately, enhanced impact on cities, nine institutions[20] announced a new global collaboration at the World Urban Forum in Medellin, Colombia, in April 2014, expressing their collective commitment to help cities to improve resilience. The aim of this collaboration is to facilitate the flow of knowledge and financial resources necessary to help cities become more resilient to disruptions related to climate change, disasters caused by natural hazards and other systemic shocks and stresses, including socioeconomic challenges associated with rapid urbanization.

Worldwide initiative for safe schools

53. School safety is consistently highlighted by countries as a priority in addressing disaster risk reduction. Ensuring safe schools is a moral imperative: no one wants to ever see children perish under the collapse of weak school infrastructure caused by disasters. Moreover, Governments want to protect public investment in critical infrastructure.

54. Following the call made at the 2009 and 2011 Global Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction for a systematic assessment of all vulnerable schools and the development and implementation of national action plans for school safety by 2015, the high-level dialogue[21] held at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2013 called for coordinated action on safe schools and for the announcement of a global programme on safe schools with voluntary commitments at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

55. The Strategy secretariat has been coordinating with Governments and members of the Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector[22] to present a worldwide initiative for safe schools at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. This initiative is Government-led and has a specific focus on high-risk countries. It integrates core components of structural safety, disaster risk reduction in the curriculum and school disaster preparedness as well as a strong element of global advocacy and social demand aimed at mobilizing political commitment for school safety globally. At the time of

[20] United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, UN-Habitat, the World Bank Group, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, the Inter-American Development Bank, Local Governments for Sustainability, the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, the Rockefeller Foundation and 100 Resilient Cities.

[21] See high-level dialogue communiqué adopted at the fourth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, Geneva 2013.

[22] The Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector is chaired by UNESCO and includes UNICEF, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Plan International, Save the Children, World Vision International, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Coalition for Global School Safety and Disaster Prevention Education, the World Bank Group/Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, and regional coalitions for school safety.

writing, 10 countries were ready to commit to promoting safe schools at the World Conference.

Children and youth mobilization on disaster risk reduction

56. The assessment of the safety of schools by students and youth networks is also part of the advocacy and mobilization that the Strategy secretariat initiated. This has been part of the consultations on a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and expanded through social media. Children and youth are defining their priorities and commitments to a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction that will be announced on the occasion of the Children and Youth Forum at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

International Day for Disaster Reduction

57. The International Day for Disaster Reduction held on 13 October in 2013 highlighted both the needs and the contributions of persons living with disabilities within the field of disaster risk reduction. Advocacy efforts around the International Day focused on moving away from viewing persons with disabilities as vulnerable and towards seeing them as assets or untapped resources for community disaster risk management.

58. The International Day for Disaster Reduction was observed in 120 countries around the world and helped direct attention to a major blind spot in disaster management, namely, the needs of the 1 billion or more persons estimated to live with some form of disability. Persons with disabilities have unique contributions to make towards building resilient societies. On social media, the message that "disability is not inability" reached over 5 million users, reinforcing the movement towards planning with persons with disabilities rather than planning for persons with disabilities.

59. In the run-up to the International Day, the Strategy secretariat launched the first-ever survey of people living with disabilities on their coping capacity in the face of a disaster event. More than 5,700 persons from 130 countries responded to the survey. According to the results, persons living with disabilities across the world said they are rarely consulted about their needs. Only 20 per cent reported that they could evacuate immediately without difficulty in the event of a sudden disaster event. If given sufficient time, the percentage of those who could evacuate with no difficulty rose from 20 to 38 per cent.

60. The International Day for Disaster Reduction in 2014 will highlight the role of older persons and their collective experience and knowledge in building resilience. The events surrounding the International Day will also serve as an opportunity for older persons to convey their perspectives and priorities for the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

C. Strengthening regional- and national-level action

61. Recognizing the shared risk faced and significant benefits to be achieved through collaboration and cooperation, regional action on disaster risk reduction continues to drive progress in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. Regional platforms and mechanisms have also proved to be essential pillars

of the global disaster risk reduction architecture and have thus provided a valuable space for multi-stakeholder consultations on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction

Africa

62. The Fifth Africa Regional Platform and Third Ministerial Meeting for Disaster Risk Reduction were held in Abuja from 13 to 16 May 2014, on the theme of "Prevent risk: build resilience". The outcome of the regional platform — a common African position on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and a ministerial declaration — builds on a series of consultations at the national and regional levels. The common African position on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction focuses on building the resilience of African institutions and communities. It sets out 43 recommendations relating to regional risk factors and institutional frameworks; integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation; investing in disaster risk reduction; and the duration of the post-2015 framework. The regional platform also resulted in commitments for implementation of the framework. The ministerial declaration adopted the recommendations and expressed a commitment to promote a coordinated and mutually reinforcing approach to the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, sustainable development goals and climate change agreements.

63. The East African Community, having endorsed the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Strategy 2012-2016, and the Strategy secretariat, convened the African Advisory Group of Parliamentarians and promoted model legislation for disaster risk reduction in the East African Legislative Assembly. Ethiopia adopted a revised multi-hazard National Policy and Strategy on Disaster Risk Management. Ongoing efforts to integrate disaster risk reduction into education and health sectors were further strengthened in several African countries, with several universities now offering graduate courses in disaster risk management.

64. Risk information improvements featured in several countries in Africa through the development of national disaster loss databases in Ethiopia, Kenya, Seychelles and Uganda. Databases assisting Governments with assessing disaster losses are set to be launched in Burkina Faso, the Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Niger, Togo, Senegal and Sierra Leone. In Africa, 56 cities have signed up for the resilient cities campaign.

Arab States

65. Understanding risks and vulnerabilities are a critical starting point for successful disaster risk management and a number of Arab States continue to make progress on reporting on disaster losses, with the Strategy secretariat's support. Currently 10 out of the 22 League of Arab States member countries have either completed, or are in the process of completing, national disaster loss databases. These databases, which for the first time feature high frequency but low intensity disasters, are of high significance for Arab States. Their establishment will increase understanding of vulnerabilities and will serve as an important tool for decision makers as well as to motivate inclusion of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation elements in the League of Arab States proposal for an Arab strategic

framework for sustainable development 2015-2025.[23] United Nations country teams are supporting States in their risk reduction endeavours and since 2012, over 12 countries in the Arab region have included disaster risk reduction in their various development frameworks, strategies or common country assessments.

66. The Second Arab Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction will be held from 14 to 16 September 2014 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. The regional Conference is co-organized by the Government of Egypt, the League of Arab States and the Strategy secretariat. The outcome is expected to contribute to the development of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, informed by the priorities in the Arab region, among which is the challenge of tackling the interrelated challenge of drought, desertification and climate change. Importantly, the Arab position will benefit from nine regional, national and local consultations that have been conducted with stakeholders since 2012. An initial Arab position on a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction was articulated at the First Arab Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction that was held in Aqaba, Jordan, in March 2013.

Asia and the Pacific

67. The Bangkok Declaration, the main outcome document of the sixth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held from 22 to 26 June 2014 in Bangkok, calls on the region's Governments to develop an Asia-Pacific regional implementation plan and to contribute to an enhanced monitoring and review mechanism based on a stronger set of targets and indicators to measure the progress in implementing a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and the commitments made at the Ministerial Conference. The Declaration emphasizes building coherence between the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, the sustainable development goals and the climate change agreement, and calls on all stakeholders to ensure that disaster risk assessment is a precondition for all development policies and programmes and to integrate disaster risk reduction in all development sectors through adequate and durable legal, institutional and resource allocation frameworks with enhanced accountability. Ten stakeholder groups that are partners in the consultation process have extended statements of voluntary commitments towards the implementation and monitoring of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

68. Central Asia and the South Caucasus held consultations in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 1 and 2 April 2014. Attended by Governments, development partners, civil society and networks, it was concluded that disaster risk reduction is development that builds a safer and more resilient planet. This standpoint was placed at the core of a series of recommendations, which included the integration of disaster risk reduction into the post-2015 development agenda and climate agreements.

69. Pacific island States and territories, together with regional organizations and civil society, adopted a shared vision for a post-2015 framework on disaster risk reduction in the outcome document entitled "The way forward: climate and disaster resilient development in the Pacific" of the sixth session of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management, held in Suva from 2 to 4 June 2014. The outcome document recognized that preventing and reducing disaster risk require the

[23] This proposal was presented at the Arab High-level Forum on Sustainable Development, held in Amman from 2 to 4 April 2014. More details are available from www.escwa.un.org/information/meetingdetails.asp?referenceNUM=3315e.

engagement and leadership of all institutions and must be coherent and mutually supportive of the wider development agenda.

70. The importance of monitoring and support for implementation was further underscored in the Pacific, as was the role and perspectives of the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society and the full and meaningful involvement of youth, women and persons with disabilities. Supporting regional action on climate and disaster risk, the Pacific Platform took an important step towards the adoption of the Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific, which sets out three regional goals to strengthen risk management; support low carbon development; and strengthen disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

Europe

71. The fourth annual meeting of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Oslo from 23 to 25 September 2013, recommended the alignment of programmatic time frames between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction actions, to make available socioeconomic data and to ensure regional organization engagement. In regards to local-level implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, the relevance of experience-sharing among municipalities, integrating disaster risk reduction in land use and urban planning, and using the Strategy secretariat's local government self-assessment tool were highlighted. In terms of governance and accountability, peer review, national strategies on disaster risk reduction and economics of disasters were noted as focus areas.

72. The European Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction was held on 8 July 2014 in Milan, Italy, in the context of the presidency of the Council of the European Union held by Italy, and was enlarged to include the broader European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction member countries. The Ministerial Meeting, attended by over 40 European countries, saw the following outcomes: (a) adoption of the ministerial outcome; (b) meeting conclusions; and (c) indication of voluntary commitments by a number of European countries and regional institutions that are foreseen as a part of the overall outcome of the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

73. Efforts to ensure political commitment to a new global agreement on reducing disaster losses have received a major boost as representatives of 40 European countries agreed to a series of recommendations designed to build resilience to disasters. The Milan outcome document acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Hyogo Framework for Action to the formulation of strategies and policies for disaster risk management. It contains 24 recommendations, including on the delivery of results, measuring progress and encouraging implementation by setting targets at the appropriate level (global, national, regional and local) and with an appropriate time frame. The targets need to be politically acceptable and operationally feasible, measurable, achievable and results-oriented. The outcome document calls for safe school and hospital policies and programmes as a priority for action at the local, national and regional levels. It also recognizes women as a force in resilience-building.

The Americas

74. The fourth session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas was held in Guayaquil, Ecuador, from 27 to 29 May 2014. The main outcome document, the Communiqué of Guayaquil, calls for the post-2015 framework on disaster risk reduction to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of the different actors among the various levels of government and society in reducing disaster risk. It further calls for community participation to be at the centre of risk management and for local governments to be explicitly included within the post-2015 framework.

75. Reflecting on the opportunity to influence the post-2015 development agenda, the Communiqué underscores the importance of ensuring coherence between new initiatives on development, risk management, climate change, humanitarian action and sustainable urban development. It also highlights the importance of engaging the private sector and scientific and academic organizations in the promotion and further implementation of the disaster risk reduction agenda.

76. During the reporting period, a total of 10 multi-stakeholder consultations on a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction were carried out in the Americas. These include six national consultations in Barbados, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Paraguay and Peru; three subregional consultations in the Caribbean (with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency), Central America (with the Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America) and South America (with the Union of South American Nations); and one thematic consultation on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in Central America, also in collaboration with the Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America. Focused studies on public investment in disaster risk reduction and the incorporation of disaster risk reduction-sensitive reconstruction processes were also carried out in the Americas region with the participation of several Governments.

77. The prioritization of disaster risk reduction as a key element of sustainable development by regional intergovernmental organizations continued to be further promoted and strengthened in the region through the adoption by the Heads of State of the Association of Caribbean States of the Declaration of Pétion Ville, in which they agreed that the best way to tackle the vulnerability of Caribbean States was by incorporating comprehensive disaster risk management into all levels of public planning, including by taking steps for regional and international cooperation. Furthermore, the Union of South American Nations agreed on the establishment of a High-level Working Group on Integrated Disaster Risk Management with the aim of promoting disaster risk reduction through policies, strategies and plans on disaster risk estimation, prevention and reduction.

78. The Latin American Parliament, with support from the Strategy secretariat, adopted a protocol on disaster risk prevention and disaster response for Latin America and the Caribbean as a tool to support and facilitate national parliaments' legislation on disaster risk reduction.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

79. In preparation for the Third World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction, the consultations for the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction have generated strong multi-stakeholder engagement at the global, regional, national and local levels. Government, civil society organizations and local communities, parliamentarians, local government officials, businesses and scientific institutions have contributed significant reflections on the progress made through the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, as well as ideas and guidance for the new framework.

80. Countries in all regions have made gradual progress across all the priorities for action of the Hyogo Framework for Action, strengthening their institutional, legislative and policy frameworks, in particular in early warning, disaster preparedness for response, risk assessment, education, research and public awareness, as well as through an increase in investment and development of risk-transfer mechanisms, such as insurance.

81. Application of risk information in the process of development planning and implementation should be an important element of policy frameworks, a key factor in planning of social and economic development, and an important linkage between climate adaptation and disaster risk management.

82. There is understanding that the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, the post-2015 sustainable development agenda and goals, and the new climate change agreement will have to constitute a body of guidance that lead to coherent and mutually reinforcing practical actions in areas of policy guidance, programmes and financing instruments as well as monitoring systems.

83. Overall, there are high expectations for a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented World Conference outcome, which builds on the Hyogo Framework for Action and gives guidance for implementation and follow-up on areas where gaps have been found as well as in areas of new and emerging disaster risk. The adoption of global targets and an enhanced monitoring system measuring impact will help to facilitate action and cooperation on disaster risk reduction.

84. While efforts to prevent the creation of new risk will need to be significantly increased, focus will also need to remain on reducing the existing risk, as hazard exposure in both higher- and lower-income countries continues to increase faster than vulnerability decreases. This requires a steady enhancement of national and local capacities for risk identification, risk-informed planning and design as well as early warning and disaster preparedness.

85. Managing disaster risk requires an inclusive, participatory, non-discriminatory whole-of-society engagement and respect for local knowledge. More efforts are needed to align sector policies, programmes and institutions' mandates, powers and resources as well as fiscal and financial instruments to effectively manage disaster risk, especially at the local level. Close and trusted cooperation between the public and private sectors, and a higher degree of public and institutional scrutiny and debate on disaster risk are essential, together with disaster risk education in schools, universities and professional programmes as well as in informal learning and public education. The work of the International Law Commission on the protection of

persons in the event of disasters is a critical contribution to enhance accountability in disaster risk management.

86. The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the regional platforms for disaster risk reduction have proved to be important multi-stakeholder events to facilitate cooperation, exchanges of knowledge and experience, peer reviews and partnerships, and are expected to play a central role in the implementation of the new framework.

87. The United Nations system entities are expected to step up their efforts to integrate disaster risk management in their technical cooperation programmes and support the United Nations resident coordinators, in line with the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience.

88. **In light of the above, I recommend that:**

(a) **Member States participate in the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and its preparatory process at the highest possible level;**

(b) **Member States consider including the periodic review of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and ensure a coordinated assessment of progress with the post-2015 sustainable development goals and agenda;**

(c) **Member States consider disaster risk in the post-2015 sustainable development agenda and goals, including through an adequate system to measure progress;**

(d) **Member States and all other stakeholder continue dedicating efforts to fully understand risk and its drivers and adopt the necessary measures;**

(e) **Member States determine and implement appropriate nationally based mechanisms for cooperation across public and private stakeholders in order to achieve an effective and holistic management of disaster risk;**

(f) **Member States give due consideration to whole-of-society participation, inclusiveness, and non-discrimination in the development and implementation of national and local plans and measures to manage disaster risk;**

(g) **Member States consider augmenting their financial contributions to the Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction to ensure adequate and flexible support for the implementation of the new framework and to ensure the financial base of the Strategy secretariat and its capacity to meet the increasing demands and expectations for its services and support.**

Annex

Update on international cooperation to reduce the impact of El Niño/La Niña

1. The El Niño phenomenon, an abnormal warming of surface ocean waters in the eastern tropical Pacific, is expected to occur in late 2014 or early 2015, and will likely have global ramifications given its potential effects on rainfall patterns across the world.

2. Advance warning has given Governments and communities time to make contingency plans and prepare for drought or flood conditions. The International Research Centre on El Niño, in Guayaquil, Ecuador, has been leading efforts to provide decision makers with the information they need to prepare and plan for a response. This early warning has made it possible for Governments of countries most likely to be affected by El Niño to take anticipatory risk reduction measures aimed at reducing the potential human, economic and environmental impact that this event may cause.

3. The International Research Centre on El Niño, as the global centre for research on El Niño and a World Meteorological Organization regional climate centre for Western South America servicing the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, has focused efforts on supporting countries potentially affected by the phenomenon with a range of services, including information systems supporting public policies on climate change and biodiversity, vulnerability assessment of watersheds, and targeted initiatives to support disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. The Centre has consolidated its international network for climate information and supports users in over 80 countries.

4. The Third International Conference on El Niño Southern Oscillation, to be held from 12 to 14 November 2014, in Guayaquil, Ecuador, offers an important opportunity to synthesize progress on El Niño-related research, increase understanding of the relationship between climate and society, and share experiences in El Niño vulnerability assessment methodologies. The Conference will bring together scientists and professionals involved in research, observations and operational meteorological, climate and hydrological services from across the world to build new knowledge and understanding aimed at improving the prediction of El Niño and its global impacts.

5. In this context, an urgent call is made to Member States to support countries that are likely to be affected by the El Niño phenomenon and to enhance the services that the Centre provides to countries and communities across the world.